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03/11/2013 Minutes

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of March 11, 2013

Board members attending were Jack Johnson, Christopher Tonkin, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Doug Greenfield, and Scott Smith. Phil Goff was absent. Also present was Joey Glushko.

*Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the February meeting were approved with amendments.

Ethics training. We, once again, reminded ourselves that we must complete the on-line ethics training for state and municipal employees by April 1.

Report on the National Bike Summit. Jack told us that because of an impending storm, he returned to Boston early and missed a day of lobbying Congress. He also told us that the most important thing he took away from the summit this year is that bicycling gets less than 1% of the transportation budget. This year there was a lot of information about how to increase this percentage using all the relevant arguments. He thinks that these arguments are finally starting to resonate with government officials. He also felt that bicycling has become a more bipartisan issue.

Public Hearing on the Mass. Ave. Redevelopment Project. We all felt that the tenor of the hearing was in favor of the current design. We discussed the fact that we were surprised that quite a number of people were in favor of one lane in either direction as opposed to the current two lanes eastbound. Jack thought that we need to work to get out the positive vote for the ballot question on April 6.

Outreach to the Police Department. Scott told us that he has a stack of the new bicycling guideline brochures recently published by the Police Department. He will bring them to the Winter Social for distribution.

Application form development. Ron showed us the most recent iteration of the Bikeway Special Event Request Form. Scott added that this request does not grant exclusive use of the facility so the fees should be less than those charged for the use of other Town facilities. There was some discussion about the legal implications of the new form and whether the Town Counsel should review it.

Annual ABAC Winter Social. We discussed what introductory remarks Christopher should make before the main event. We also talked about what kind of adapter will be needed to use the town's digital projector with a MacBook computer.

Recreational Trails Grant (RTG) Program. Joey urged us to try the on-line mapping tool provided by the consultants on the bikeway mapping project. Stephan will link to the tool from the Minuteman Bikeway website. Joey will have a meeting this week with the cartographer to resolve some problems that have come up with the design of the map. Stephan asked what the current thinking is about what information will appear on the map. Joey answered that the town centers will be designated with one color and additional business areas will be designated with another color. She added that there will be enlargements of the town centers on the back. She also told us that the design of the map is not yet complete. There are more iterations to come.

Spring Outreach—bike safety check. Christopher told us that Chad Gibson and Steven Quinn are willing to run this event. It is scheduled for a Saturday in June from 10 to 2.

ECOFest 2013. Stephan volunteered to work on a semi-permanent display for ABAC to use at this kind of event. Joey suggested that we have a meeting of a working group this weekend to plan the display. We also discussed the staffing of the ABAC table at ECOFest.

Bike accommodations as roads are repaved. The plans devised primarily by Phil were well received by TAC. Scott told us that it will again be an agenda item at this month's TAC meeting. Scott volunteered to fill us in on the results of that discussion. We all thought that Phil did an excellent job in devising and presenting the system to TAC.

Minuteman Bikeway website. Stephan has taken over the management of this site from Jack. There were some suggestions for improvements and updates for the site such as updating maps and current events. Jack suggested that we add a section on plowing and ice melting. Stephan told us that upcoming events and new postings will now be listed on the landing page with links to the articles.

Other. Ron would like to standardize the way the name of the BIKE-Arlington Tour is represented. We decided on BIKE-Arlington Tour with "BIKE" in all capital letters.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.